



CITY of BRISBANE

Open Space and Ecology Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. • Hybrid Meeting 50 Park Place, Brisbane, CA

CALL TO ORDER – 6:34 PM

ROLL CALL

- A. Consider any request of a committee member to attend the meeting remotely under the “Emergency Circumstances” of AB 2449

Committee members present: Becker, Calmes, Fieldman (6:37), Rogers, Salmon

Staff members present: Sustainability Manager, Etherton; Deputy Director of Public Works, Kinser

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Salmon moved to adopt the agenda and Rogers seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Salmon noted the Habitat Restoration Day on February 3 and the e-waste pickup event at Jefferson High School on Jan 27.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- B. Minutes of December 13, 2023 – Salmon moved to adopt the agenda and Calmes seconded; the motion was adopted unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- C. Annual work plan – Etherton noted the minor changes from the 2023 Work Plan
- Salmon asked about reviewing and updating the Open Space Plan
 - Fieldman asked about doing an outreach campaign on trash; the committee discussed whether or not it needed to be on the work plan and decided to include it as an example of targeted outreach
 - Salmon moved to accept the work plan as amended, Calmes seconded and all present voted in favor
- D. Committee letter to the City Council regarding City Manager recruitment – Becker thanked Fieldman for drafting the letter
- Salmon requested to add language about quality of life issues
 - Salmon moved that the committee send the letter as amended as soon as possible, Calmes seconded and all present voted in favor
 - Etherton noted that as a letter from the committee, it should be sent by Chair Becker on behalf of the committee
- E. Consider request to host San Bruno Mountain Celebration event in May

- Becker shared the request from Ariel of San Bruno Mountain Watch, noting the event days of May 11 and 24
- Etherton suggested this could be an opportunity to tie in outreach on the Dark Sky Ordinance, such as a night hike
- Fieldman suggested a hike near the slide area, where native plants are returning
- Becker suggested including on the next agenda for the full committee to discuss ideas and then the Event subcommittee can carry it forward; Etherton will send an email to the full committee so everyone can be thinking of ideas.

STAFF UPDATES

Etherton:

- Reported back on questions from Teresa Montgomery's SSF Scavenger presentation:
 - Regarding "lid-flipping" statistics, their staff looked inside a total of 869 collection carts/bins, leaving 156 courtesy notices for minimal contamination and 65 non-collection notices for substantial contamination. This translates to a sampling rate of almost 18% and ~7.5% of carts/bins sampled had significant contamination.
 - Black walnuts are best placed in the garbage since the material Scavenger collects is transformed into compost for growing fruit/vegetables.
 - Discussing potential collection events for challenging waste streams, possibly spring and fall at the farmers market, but more investigation is needed.
- Reported on Bay Area SunShares statistics from last fall which included 5 sign-ups and one contract for 16kWh of battery storage in Brisbane
- County Office of Sustainability, FixIt Clinics and library system are said to be planning for a FixIt Clinic in Brisbane.
- Shared some upcoming events related to the Weed Management Area, including Integrated Pest Management, stinkwort, and grass invasion.
- Reported on statistics from the County Office of Sustainability's Foodware Aware outreach campaign, and that their three-year contract was ending but they would be renewing for two years to continue providing outreach services to food businesses on the requirements.
- This January and last, city staff held a clothing swap in advance of the Mothers of Brisbane shop and any items not claimed by fellow staff will be donated to MOB.

Kinsler:

- Reported that the Festival trees are expected to be planted soon; as they are only about 3' tall, the Parks and Rec Dept will continue to use the fake tree for some years.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Events (Rogers, Salmon, Nunan) – Salmon again noted the Feb 3 Planting Day
- Education and Outreach (Fieldman, Rogers) – need to schedule a meeting
- *Building Decarbonization (Becker, Ebel, Fieldman) – met in December and postponed a meeting earlier this week due to the Berkeley decision and need to discuss next steps with other internal staff. Calmes noted her challenges with home electrification and encouraged a meeting or discussion on it

- *Open Space Plan Update (Calmes, Rogers, Salmon) – Kinser will follow up to schedule a meeting
- *Crocker Trail Frog Habitat (Rogers, Nunan, Calmes) – Kinser noted that she and the utility engineer met on site with Paul Bouscal, and also separately met with other staff to discuss solutions. The existing drainage isn't functioning well and correction would require bringing in heavy equipment which we want to avoid. Additional solutions include possibly a swale or cleaning out the pipe to allow water to slowly drain into the concrete channel; the latter seems promising. Kinser noted needing to talk with the property manager about hosting a volunteer event on site.
- *Invasive Species Ordinance (Becker, Fieldman, Nunan) – need to schedule a meeting; Kinser reported communicating with legal counsel about the nuisance abatement in the fire code that they will work together to suggest revised language for.
- *Dark Skies Ordinance (Becker, Ebel, Salmon) – Council had very few changes at their November reading and adopted it on their consent agenda on Jan 18. Will schedule a subcommittee meeting to discuss outreach and implementation.
- *Tree Issues (Calmes, Ebel, Salmon) – discussed options for the training on PlanIT Geo Canopy software; we will need to have the training in a subcommittee and send the recording to the full committee. Salmon also expressed concern about trees, especially at Sierra Point, and the tree irrigation having been turned off.
- Baylands Specific Plan subcommittees – Salmon encouraged everyone to start their reading

CALENDAR ITEMS – add litter as an agenda discussion item and the San Bruno Mountain Celebration event in May

CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBER MATTERS – Rogers noted erosion on the new Crocker Trail. Kinser reported that staff is aware and has various strategies to address the drainage problems but can't implement while it is wet.

NEXT MEETING: February 28, 2024

ADJOURNMENT – 8:06 PM